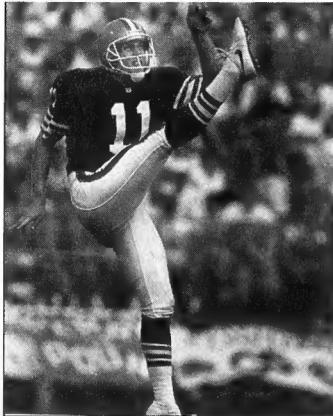


# Player of the Game



■ P-Brian Hansen  
Week 1



■ QB-Bernie Kosar  
Week 2



■ RB-Eric Metcalf  
Week 3, 14



■ LB-Leroy Hoard  
Week 4



■ LB-Mike Johnson  
Weeks 6, 8, 12



■ FB-Kevin Mack  
Week 7



■ WR-Michael Jackson  
Week 9, 15



■ S-Stevon Moore  
Week 10



■ WR-Lawyer Tillman  
Week 11



■ LB-David Brandon  
Week 13

Photos by Gregory Drezdzon

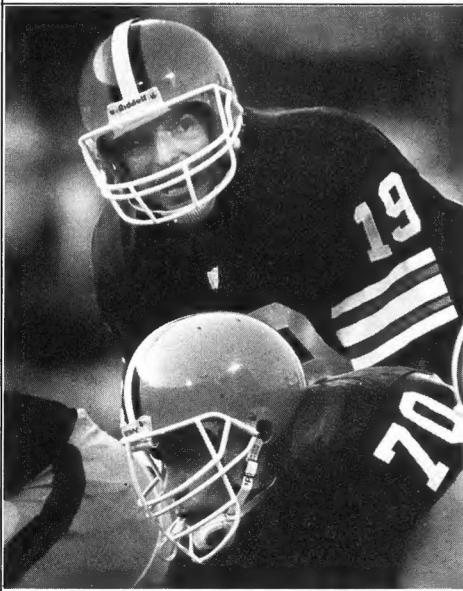
# Browns Skid Past Oilers, 24-20

The December 23, 1989 season finale in Houston was to decide the AFC Central Division championship. The Browns entered the game with an 8-6-1 record, winning only one of their last five games, which included a 10-10 tie at home against Kansas City.

Houston, meanwhile, carried a 9-6 mark into the game, but was still haunted by the memory of a devastating 61-7 loss in Cincinnati the Sunday before this Saturday night nationally televised game (ESPN) with the Browns.

A Central Division title would have been the first in Oilers' history. The Browns were looking for their fourth division title in five years and their fifth straight trip to the playoffs, the longest postseason stretch in the AFC.

The Astrodome, filled with 58,852 fans, had become known as the *House of Pain* for visiting teams, and the Browns were no exception. The Browns had won an earlier meeting between the two teams in



**Kosar's 18 completions were spread among eight different receivers.**



**Metcalf caught a 68-yard touchdown pass after a Houston turnover.**

Cleveland, 28-17, but playing the Oilers on their own turf, with the deafening noise factor working against them, was going to be tough.

Browns' RB-Eric Metcalf took K-Tony Zendejas' opening kickoff at the Cleveland 18 and returned it 21 yards to the Browns' 39, setting the stage for a 13-play Cleveland drive that consumed 5:01 on the clock and resulted in K-Matt Bahr's 22-yard field goal for a 3-0 lead.

Browns' S-Felix Wright was still QB-Warren Moon's nemesis when he intercepted his seventh ca-

reer Moon-pass to stop an Oiler drive on the Browns' two-yard line. Wright returned it 22 yards to set up a QB-Bernie Kosar-to-Metcalf 68-yard TD pass play three snaps later.

The first quarter closed with the Browns on top, 10-0, which widened to 17-0 in the opening minutes of the second quarter as Kosar and WR-Webster Slaughter combined on a 40-yard touchdown pass. Despite Zendejas' 30-yard field goal just before the half, Oiler fans were expressing their unhappiness

*continued on page 22*

## A BROWNS MOMENT

*continued from page 21*

with a loud chorus of boos as the teams trotted off the field at halftime.

Warren Moon was not to be denied, though, and proved why he is among the best at his trade by steering the Oilers to an 11-play drive that covered 73 yards, finishing with a nine-yard scoring strike to WR-Drew Hill. The fourth quarter began with the Browns hanging onto a 17-10 lead.

The best was yet to come. Zendejas capped an 80-yard, seven-play scoring drive to open the final stanza by kicking a 37-yard field goal, narrowing the gap to 17-13.

After an exchange of punts and with the clock winding down, Moon brought the Oilers back to Cleveland territory. With the ball on the Browns' 15-yard line and Moon in the shotgun formation, the snap from center sailed over his head. It was picked by Browns' LB-Clay Matthews, who began rambling towards the Cleveland goal.

Inexplicably, Matthews chose to lateral to DT-Chris Pike, but the loose ball was picked up by WR-Ernest Givins and the Oilers had a reprieve in a bizarre sequence of events on the Browns' 27-yard line.

It didn't take long for Moon to take advantage of the situation. On the next play, he rewarded Givins with a perfect toss in the end zone. For the first time, the Oilers were in the lead, 20-17, with less than five minutes left to play.

Another exchange of punts gave the Browns the ball back at their own 42-yard-line with just 2:30 remaining to play. Kosar, who was about to direct yet another miraculous clutch performance, hit Slaughter for a 10-yard gain and then connected with WR-Reggie Langhorne for nine-yards at the two-minute warning.

"I just went into the huddle and believed in our guys. We knew we could move the ball on them," said Kosar, who was 18 for 36 for 228 yards and two TD passes.

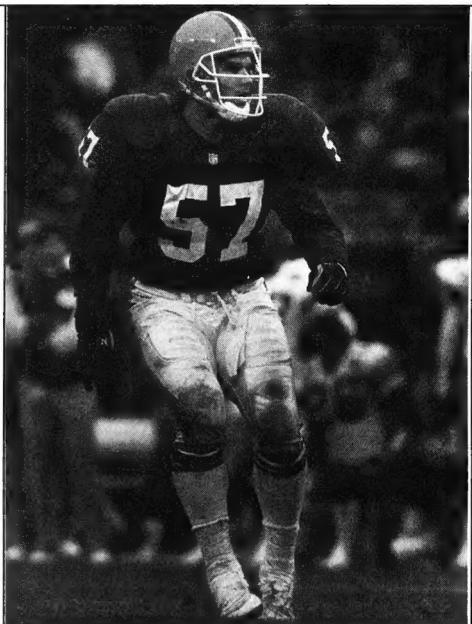


Photo by Gregory Dredzow

■ **Matthews intercepted a fourth quarter Warren Moon pass.**

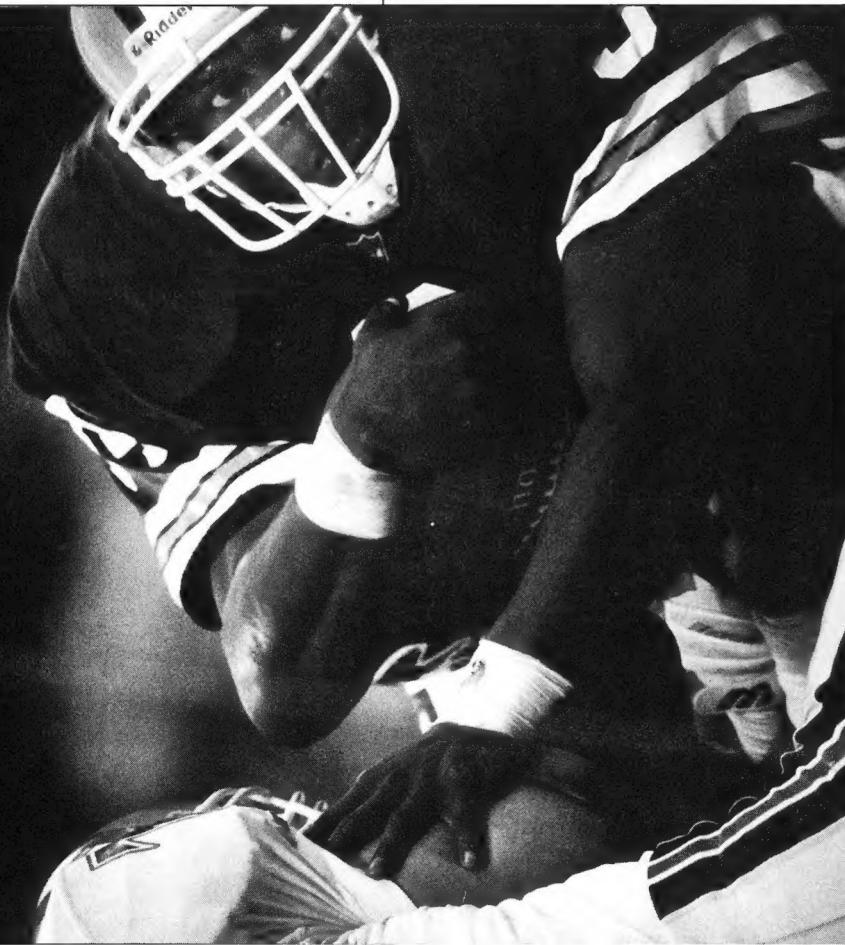
Kosar surprised the Oiler defense with a four-yard sneak. FB-Kevin Mack followed by smashing 12 yards off right guard, and Kosar completed an eight-yard pass to Langhorne before Mack sprinted around left end for 11 yards to the Houston four-yard line.

With 39 seconds left, Mack spurted through the right guard hole again and hit paydirt to give the Browns a 24-20 lead.

Moon refused to give up and took the Oilers to the Browns' 48-yard line as time expired. The Houston quarterback turned in another magnificent performance with 32 completions in 51 attempts for 414 yards.

Mack was the Browns' top ground-gainer with 62 yards on 12 carries (5.1 avg.), with most of those yards coming when the Browns needed them most. Kosar's 18 completions were spread among eight different receivers with Langhorne grabbing five of them for 38 yards.

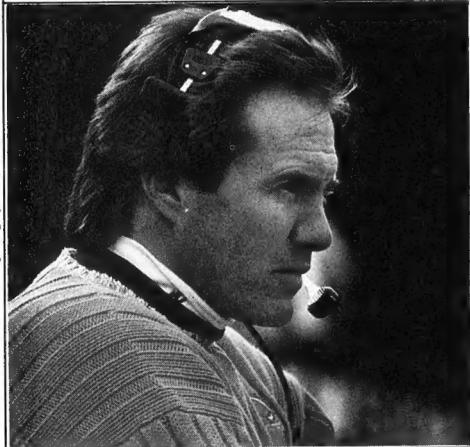
The Browns' triumph over the Oilers not only gave them another AFC Central Division title, but it earned a place among the most memorable moments in the team's proud history. ■



■ **Mack bulldozed over the goal line for the winning TD.**

**WELCOME TO CLEVELAND STADIUM . . .** The Cleveland Browns extend a warm welcome to all fans attending today's game versus the Houston Oilers at Cleveland Stadium.

**THE SERIES . . .** The Browns hold a 27-17 advantage in their regular season series with the Oilers and have an 0-1 record in playoff action. Cleveland is 13-8 vs. Houston at home (0-1 in playoffs) and 14-9 in the Astrodome. Last time the two teams met was Nov. 8 in the Astrodome when the Browns scored a convincing 24-14 win. The Browns-Oilers' rivalry has been one marked by streaks and close games. Houston has won four of the last five games with Cleveland after the Browns swept the Oilers in 1989. The Browns had winning streaks vs. the Oilers in the first nine games of the series (1970-74), three games (1976-77) and six games (1984-86). Houston had two three-game winning streaks (1974-75);



■ Bill Belichick

1977-78), and a four-game streak (1990-91). The two games in 1991 came right down to the wire, with Houston winning the first matchup, 28-24, in the final nine seconds in Houston on 11/17, and the Browns missing a field goal (19-yarder) with four seconds remaining that would have tied their 12/15 meeting at the Stadium in a 17-14 loss.

**BILL SAYS . . .** "The Detroit loss was a big disappointment, but we're still in this thing and we've got to get our focus on Houston right away; do everything we can to beat the Oilers, and, then, do the same thing next week for the game at Pittsburgh. We've been counted out before this season and we've come back and I expect us to come back again . . . There are a number of things we can still accomplish this season. When the season is over, we can look back and say we won more

games than we did in 1991 and assess that. What I am sure of is that we are better than we were a year ago in all areas of the game. We're making progress . . . I think the two biggest statistics a defense should be concerned about are number of points allowed and the number of times you turn a team over. One stat I don't worry about on offense is one of our running backs rushing for 100 yards. You can get a 100-yard rusher almost anytime you want — just give the ball to one of your backs 30 to 40 times. I think it's more important to have balance — a balance to whom you give the ball and how you get it to him."

**ON HOUSTON . . .** "I'm sure they'll come up here with as much intensity as they have. They are right in the middle of the Wild Card playoff hunt and they need to win, plus we beat them at their place earlier this season. Like I said the first time we played them, they have a lot of players who are well respected around the league. When you look at their offense, you start with a line that features Pro Bowlers Bruce Matthews and Mike Munchak. They have three Pro Bowl receivers: Webster Slaughter, Ernest Givins and Haywood Jeffires and you can argue that running back Lorenzo White is having a Pro Bowl season. On defense, there's more of the same — Pro Bowlers everywhere you look. William Fuller and Ray Childress on the defensive line; Cris Dishman and Jerry Gray at the corners have both been to the Pro Bowl and so has linebacker Al Smith. It's obvious they have a lot of players who make big plays. This game will have playoff intensity for the obvious reasons. Neither team can afford a loss."

**CLAY NEARS MARKS . . .** Linebacker Clay Matthews, who set a Browns' team mark by playing in his 15th consecutive season, is close to two other team records. If Matthews plays in the final two games, he will tie Hall of Famer Lou Groza for the most games ever played by a Brown. Groza's mark is 216, while Clay



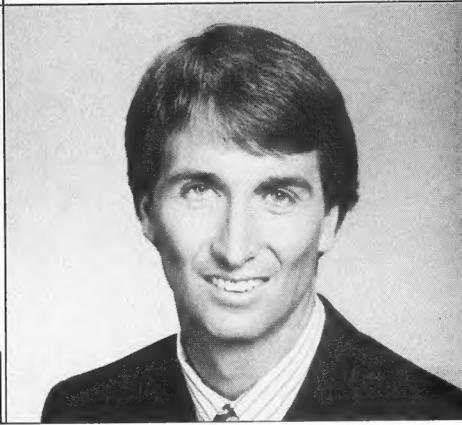
■ Clay Matthews

enters this Sunday's game against Houston with 214. Matthews is also closing in on Jerry Sherk's team record of 69 career sacks. Clay currently has 68. (Walter Johnson is third with 58.) Matthews, the NFL's oldest defensive player, currently ranks fourth in games played among active players. The Rams' Jackie Slater is first with 236; the Bills' James Lofton is second with 221; and the Falcons' Mike Kenn is third with 217. Only Tampa QB Steve DeBerg (1/19/54) and Slater (5/27/54) are older than Clay (3/15/56) among present NFL players. Matthews has missed just one game since 1985 and that was the 1991 opener against Dallas when he was nursing a calf muscle injury.

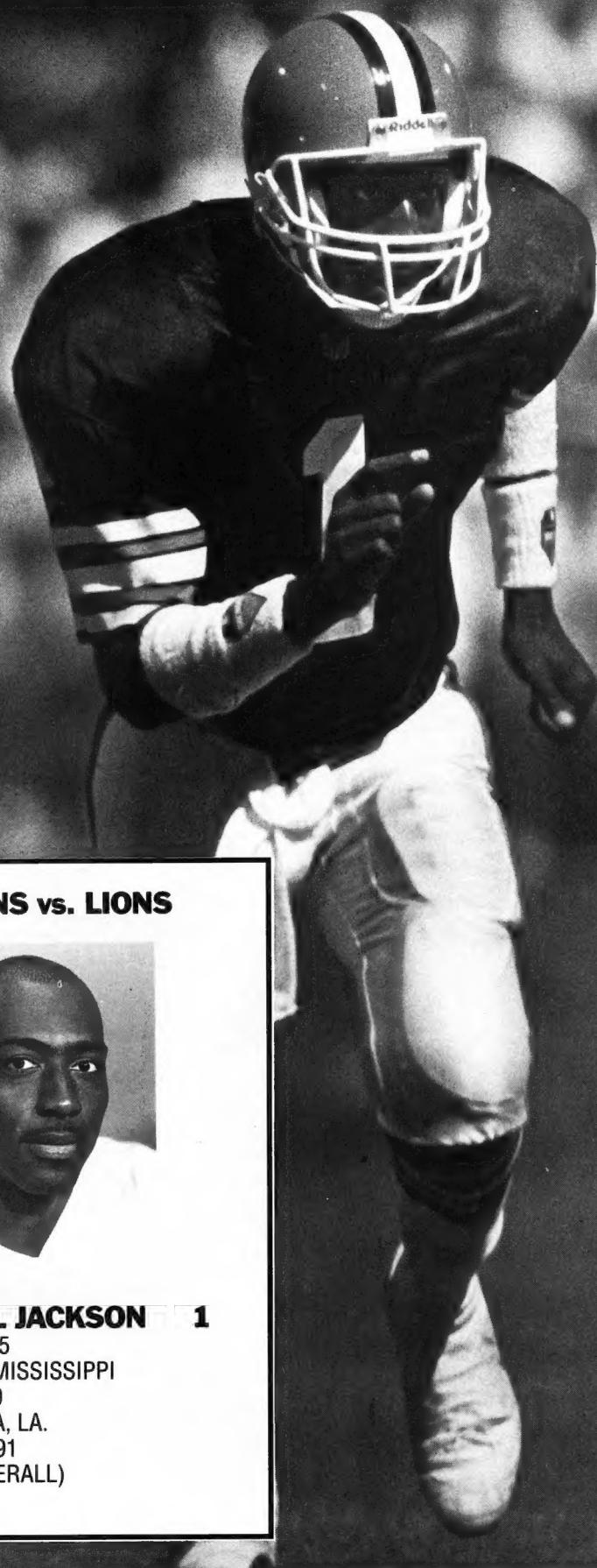
**RADIO WAVES . . .** Today's game can be heard on WHK-AM (1420) and WMMS-FM (100.7), flagship stations for the largest radio network (54 stations) in Browns' history. The Browns salute all the members of their radio network — in Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky. Eight-year veterans Nev Chandler (calls the action) and former Browns' offensive tackle Doug Dieken (adds color) are the Browns' radio team.



■ Today's game with the Oilers will be telecast by NBC. Tom Hammond (left) will handle the play-by-play and Cris Collinsworth will offer color commentary.



# PLAYER OF THE GAME



## BROWNS vs. LIONS



### MICHAEL JACKSON #1

WR 6-4 195  
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI  
DOB: 4/12/69  
TANGIPAHOA, LA.  
DRAFT 6, 1991  
(141st OVERALL)

# Keeping Up with Mr. Jones

By Frank Derry

**J**It's a good thing offensive, defensive and special teams players all wear the same helmet. Otherwise, James Jones, who plays on all three units, might have a difficult time when he's told to take the field.

"Sometimes it gets a little confusing" said the personable Jones. "I'll be on the sideline and all of a sudden we'll have a fourth down and short situation. Sometimes I don't know if I'm going in as a running back or a lineman. I just know I have to go in."

Jones isn't complaining, mind you. In fact, he enjoys the fact his talents are utilized in virtually every phase of the game.

His main responsibility is defensive tackle, a position at which he has shown vast improvement this year. But the 6-2, 294-pound Jones also is on several of the special team units. Plus, he serves as the blocking back on short yardage situations. "That's something I can do to help the team and I'm happy to contribute in any way I can," Jones said.

Jones played fullback at Davenport (Ia) High School and also was used as a running back in short yardage situations at Northern Iowa. Browns head coach Bill Belichick noticed those attributes on Jones' resume and immediately installed him as a blocking back in certain situations.

"He had been back there before (in high school and college) and so last year in training camp and at times during the season we put him in," Belichick said. "He does a good job at it. He's been effective."

This year, you'll see No. 96 line up in the backfield in virtually all short-yardage situations. "For the most part it has been working and anytime something works, you can go with it until somebody stops it," Jones said.

Asked if he'd like to carry the ball, Jones grins and says, "Maybe. We'll just have to wait and see."

Actually, lining up in the backfield brings back some bad memories for Jones. "I got hurt running the ball in high school," he recalled. "I got my foot caught on the turf and I broke my leg early in my senior year. That pretty much wiped out that season."

Scouts from the major universities told Jones to attend a junior college, then transfer once he was 100 percent healthy again. However, Jones opted to attend Northern Iowa, where he earned first-team All-America honors by The Poor Man's Guide to the NFL Draft.

Much like he does now, Jones filled a number of roles for the Panthers. He moved in as a starter at defensive end in the fourth game of his freshman season. As a sopho-



■ James Jones

more, he moved to outside linebacker, then switched back to being a down lineman as a junior. Finally, in his senior season, Jones played inside linebacker.

"It really helped me to play all those positions," Jones said. "I knew what everyone was doing and what was going on."

He went to the Combine in Indianapolis a little overweight, but that didn't deter the Browns. "Coach Belichick and Mike Lombardi both came to Northern Iowa and worked me out personally," Jones said. "The Browns were the only team that sent both their head coach and player personnel director."

The Browns used their third-round choice (57th selection overall) to select Jones, who went on to start all 16 games at defensive tackle last year as a rookie. His statistics included 51 tackles, one sack, a safety, three fumble recoveries and an interception which he converted into a touchdown.

This year, through 13 games, Jones had again started every game. He had 37 tackles, two sacks, one forced fumble and a fumble recovery.

Even though Jones' personal statistics are a little lower than last year, Belichick calls Jones one of the team's most improved defensive performers. "I'd put him in a group with Rob Burnett and Anthony Pleasant as the most improved," Belichick said. "James has been real solid for us

this year."

Jones said, "There are some things that I do better than a year ago which is just the result of being able to play as much as I did last year. I pretty much know what I'm doing now. Instead of just reading I can pretty much react and I know what is going to happen before it happens."

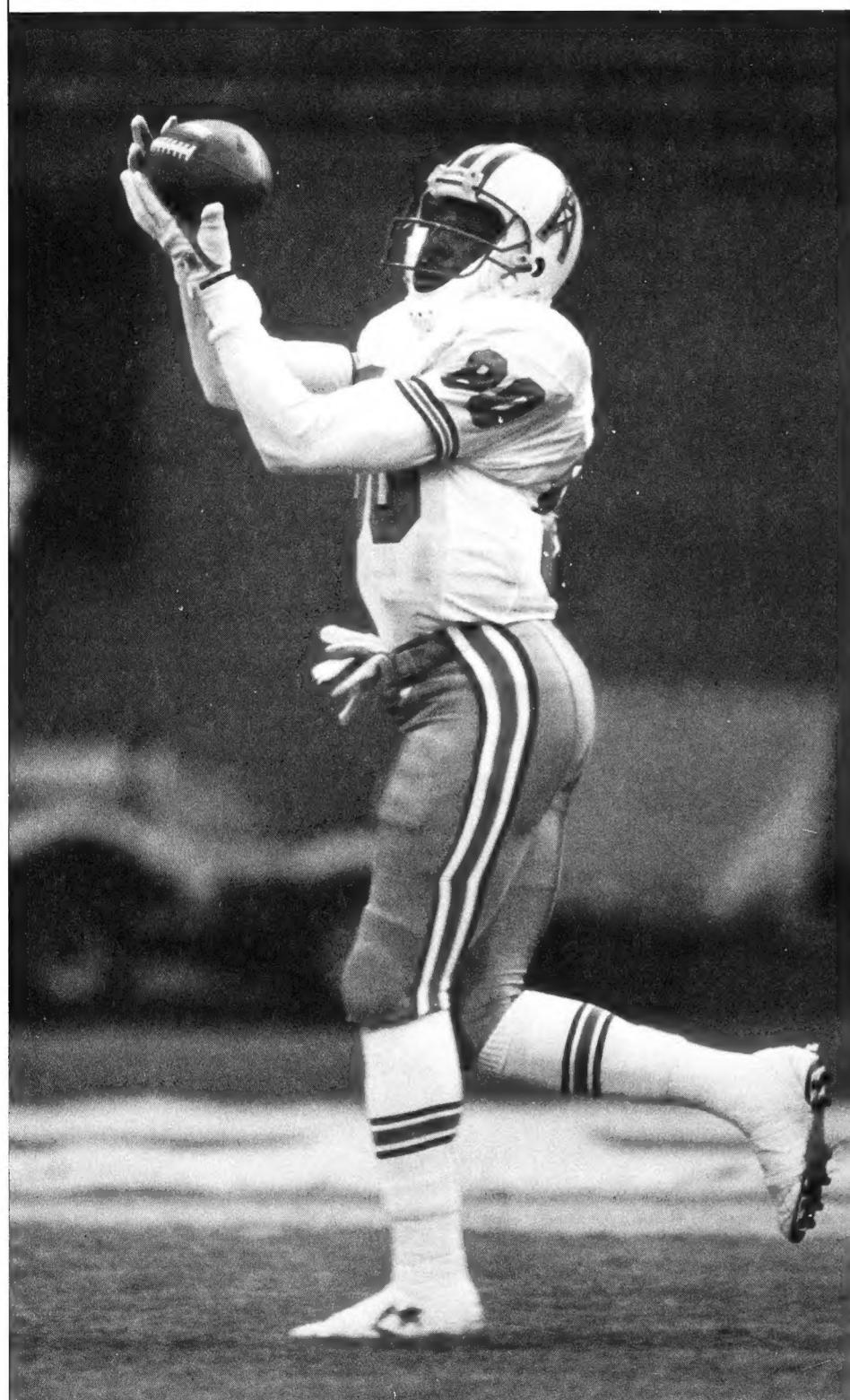
That might be true on the football field, but it definitely wasn't true in the boxing ring. Jones, who has never found a sport he didn't want to play, decided to take up boxing as a youngster.

"I tried it for about a week," he recalled. "I went to the gymnasium one day and the guy kept hitting me in the face. I said, I'm through with that. I was about nine years old. My boxing career was very brief. I'd rather watch someone else fight."

"I was told I should concentrate on one sport," Jones said. "I really did like baseball. In fact, I liked baseball more than football. But with my size (he weighed 235 pounds in high school) I thought football might be better for me. As I look back at it now, I wish maybe I had stuck with baseball a little longer. I played outfield, first base and designated hitter, I really could hit pretty good."

Today, James Jones is still doing the hitting, albeit in a different uniform. ■

## OILERS ACTION



**Curtis Duncan (88) 1991:** For fourth consecutive season, did not miss a game . . . Started all 16 contests as one of four receivers in Oilers' "Run 'N Shoot" offense . . . Finished fourth on team in both receptions (55) and receiving yards (588), while tying for third in TD catches with four . . . Member of "Fab Four" that set NFL record for receptions by four players on same team with 315, surpassing the 299 by the 1989 Redskins.

**PRO:** Possesses good hands, runs accurate routes, and has surprising speed . . . Is tied for seventh (with Alvin Reed) on Oilers' all-time receptions list with 199 and ranks eighth on receiving yards chart with 2525 . . . Entering 1992, consecutive starts streak stands at 32.

Pete J. Groh/NFL Photos

## MEMORIES



■ Arthur B. Modell

Art Modell recently had the opportunity to look back over his 31 years as owner of the Cleveland Browns and thought about some old friends.

Among those were Wellington Mara, George Halas, Pete Rozelle and Art's longtime friend — "the Chief" — the late Art Rooney of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Of course, there were many others.

But, on this day, when the NFL Alumni chose to honor Modell with the 1992 induction into the Order of the Leather Helmet, he recalled some of the old players. His first "hero" was a man who played without a helmet, Roy "Father" Lumpkin of the 1935 Brooklyn Dodgers.

"I have deep, deep regard and affection for old players," said Modell. "Players that made this game what it is today. Players who played for the love of the game."

When he addressed the audience, he said the night had been like a "mini highlight film." He ran into old friends like Sid Gillman, Fuzzy Thurston and Chuck Bednarik.

The Order of the Leather Helmet was named for Art Rooney, who was among the order's first class of laureates in 1978.

Membership in the order is reserved for those making deep and lasting contributions to the game of professional football.

Of course, it comes down to more than that. It comes down to caring about people — the players, coaches and fans.

And Modell, like Rooney, has made deep and lasting contributions to his community as well. ■

## Kevin Spencer

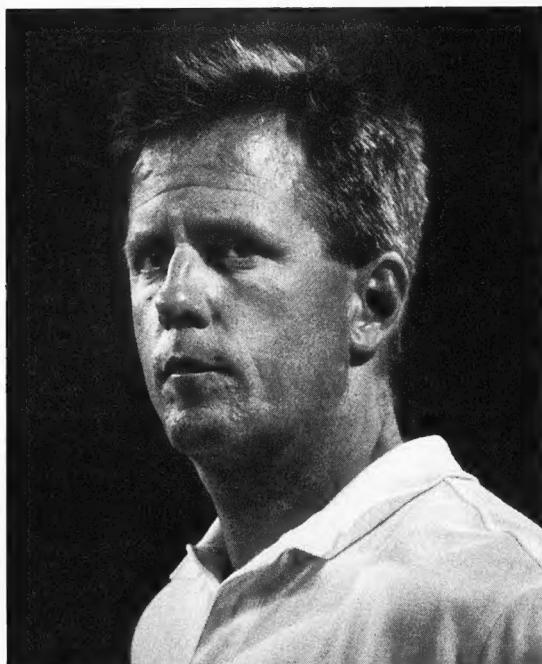
Kevin Spencer, formerly the head coach of Wesleyan University (Bill Belichick's alma mater), joined the Browns near the end of last season. In addition to his offensive assistant duties, Spencer works with strength coach Jerry Simmons and special teams' coach Scott O'Brien.

### KEVIN SPENCER, Offensive Assistant:

Born November 2, 1953, Queens, N.Y.

### Coaching Background:

1975-76 (State U. of N.Y.); 1976-79 (Detroit Country Day School); 1979-80 (Cornell); 1981-86 (Ithaca); 1987-91 (Wesleyan, head coach); 1992 (Browns).



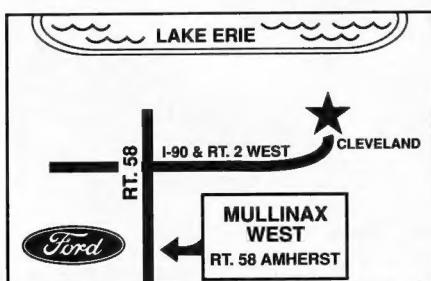
*Photo by Gregory Drezdzon*

**ONE  
PRICE**

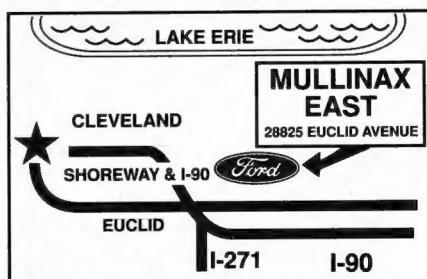


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# Operation Can-Do Ends Dec. 21

**O**n Sunday, Nov. 15, The Browns' Wives Association organized the 8th annual Operation "Can-Do" Food Drive kick off.

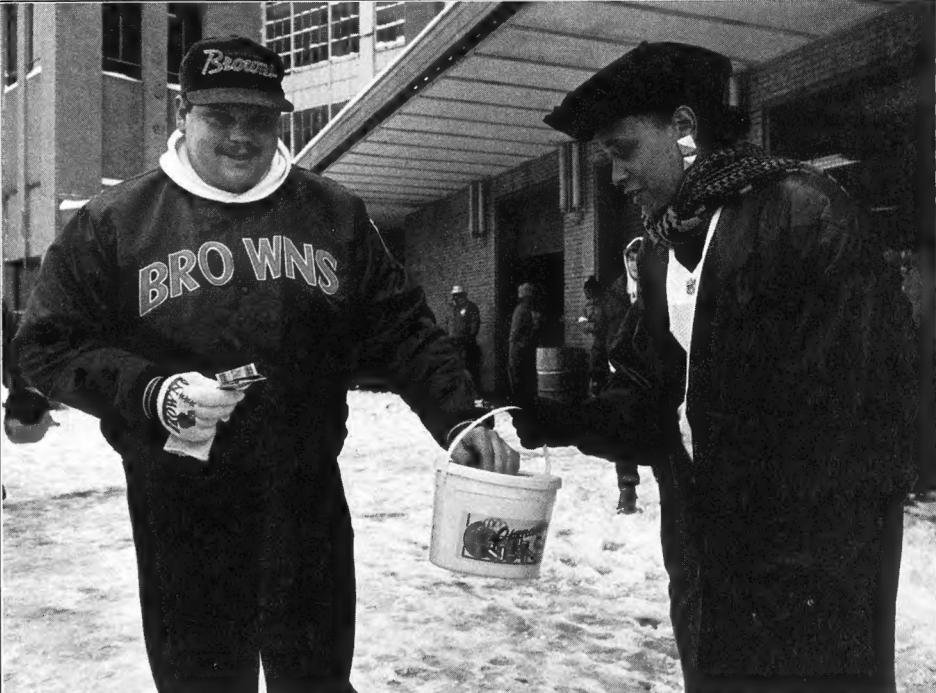
The Browns' Wives Association members were at each gate to greet the fans and request a donation to their annual canned food drive. Players' wives wore their husbands' jerseys and the coaches' wives assisted in the collection.

The drive, which was kicked off at the Chargers' contest, is actually a six-week community-wide drive, ending Dec. 21st. All canned or non-perishable items will be distributed by the Cleveland Food Basket to Hunger Relief Centers throughout the City of Cleveland.

"Can-Do" collected nearly 75 tons of food and approximately \$8,000 in 1991, which was used to buy additional food for distribution during the holiday season.

Sponsoring the event this year are the Wives Association, The Cleveland Food Basket, Stop 'n' Shop Supermarkets, Elias Brothers Big Boy Restaurants, Shamrock Movers, Fox-Nineteen WOIO-TV, WMMS FM, and Brilliant Sign Co.

Fans will be able to meet and get autographs of some of their favorite Browns and their wives at their local Stop 'n' Shop and Elias Brothers locations, and at the same time, drop off their donations. ■



■ Michelle Taylor (wife of CB-Terry) participated in the Browns' wives 1992 canned food drive.

Photo by Gregory Drezden

**WMMS**  
**100.7 FM**

**FOX WOIO**  
**nineteen**



**Shamrock**  
MOVING & STORAGE CO.

**BES Brilliant Electric**  
**Sign Co.**



■ "Operation Can-Do" kicked off Sunday, November 15th with a canned food collection at the Browns/Chargers' game. You can also drop off food at all Stop 'n' Shop Supermarkets and at all Elias Brothers Restaurants until December 21st. Please help . . . food collected will be distributed by the Cleveland Food Basket to the Hunger Relief Centers throughout the North Coast.